

long and honorable career of service he has earned this position of leadership.

Throughout his honorable career, Chief Gurnari has received two Honorable Service Awards from the Bogota Police Department and the Chiefs Achievement Award from the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association. I commend Chief Gurnari for his lifetime of service and wish him and his colleagues the best for a safe and productive year.

#### MRS. NITA GORE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 17, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and personally congratulate my dear friend, Mrs. Nita Gore of Huntington, WV, on her 80th birthday this Friday, January 18, 2008.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "None deserve better than those who contribute to the amelioration of that form (government)." As a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, a life-long Democrat, and member of Our Lady of Fatima Church, she has spent a lifetime serving the residents of Huntington. Her unwavering dedication to bettering the lives of others is very much appreciated by the people of southern West Virginia.

In her amazing 80 years, she has been a devoted mother, wife, and friend. At the same time she has been a nurse, volunteer, and public servant and has endlessly battled for the betterment of southern West Virginia. I agree with Mr. Jefferson. None deserve better than Mrs. Gore.

Mrs. Gore has spent many years encouraging others to become active in our government. She brings an irreplaceable enthusiasm to her community and the State of West Virginia. As her birthday approaches, I wish to thank my dear friend, Mrs. Nita Gore, for the extraordinary effort she has put into our State.

Mrs. Nita Gore is a true pillar of the community, whose list of accomplishments far exceeds her years of service. Her devotion to her family and commitment to her community are examples to us all. Southern West Virginia is lucky to have her.

I salute Mrs. Gore for her 80 years of friendship and service, thank her for the contributions she has made to the city of Huntington and southern West Virginia, and wish her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

#### COMMEMORATING BLACK JANUARY

##### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 17, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I note that January 19 will mark the 18th anniversary of an historic and tragic day in the history of the country of Azerbaijan. On the night of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops invaded the capital city of Baku and surrounding areas. By the end of

the next day, more than 130 people had died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested and 5 were missing. This event is memorialized as "Black January," and for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan this event left an indelible mark on the minds of all citizens.

Soviet troops entered Azerbaijan under the authority of a state of emergency declared by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and signed by then President Mikhail Gorbachev. In the face of growing unrest among the people of Azerbaijan, a national independence movement which had gained a strong foothold, and emerging democratic groups who were projected to succeed in an upcoming Parliament, the Soviet Union sought to "restore order" by indiscriminately firing on those peacefully demonstrating in Baku, including women and children. The protesters were calling for independence from the Soviet Union and the removal of Communist officials.

The Soviet incursion in early 1990 was intended to suppress the growing independence movement. Instead, it further incited Azerbaijani nationalism. In the end, Azerbaijan's pro-Moscow regime grew weaker and by 1991, popular pressure led the country to break away from Soviet rule and declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. November 1991 marked the beginning of international recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The United States opened an embassy in Baku in March 1992 and remains committed to aiding Azerbaijan in its transition to democracy and its formation of an open market economy.

Some historical observers have noted that the violence inflicted on the citizens of Baku may have been intended to send a message to other Soviet republics that similar aspirations of nationalism would not be tolerated. In the wake of this horrific act and inspired by the strength of the Azerbaijani people's belief in the principles of democracy, the Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for over 16 years, despite lingering economic and social problems from the Soviet era. Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

The road to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity for the Azerbaijani people has not come without adversity and sacrifice. Even though Azerbaijan thrives today, the people of Azerbaijan recognize those who lost their lives on Black January in 1990 and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy. On the anniversary of this terrible tragedy, we who believe in the tenets of freedom and the hope of democracy should recognize the incredible sacrifice made by the people of Azerbaijan and by free people all around the world.

#### HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT RICHARD HOLMES

##### HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 17, 2008*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Sergeant Richard Holmes on his retirement from the Ridley Township Police Department after over 30 years of service to the people of Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Detective Sergeant Holmes began his distinguished career in 1975, and the following year became one of the first four canine officers for Ridley Township. He was promoted to corporal in 1988, and became a sergeant in May 2005. In April 2006, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant, and served as the Township Juvenile Officer until his retirement on March 31, 2007.

During his career, Rich also worked as the Township Arson Investigator and served with the Holmes Fire Department, one of six volunteer fire companies serving Ridley Township. Rich and his wife Darlene live in the Holmes section of the township.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Detective Sergeant Rich Holmes for his decades of distinguished service and selfless dedication to the community of Ridley Township.

#### HONORING THE RED CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S SOCCER TEAM

##### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 17, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Red Creek High School Boy's Soccer Team, 2007 Class C New York State Champions. The Red Creek Mules Boy's Soccer Team defeated the Marathon Olympians by a score of 3-1, earning Red Creek's second State soccer championship in 3 years.

The Red Creek Boy's Soccer Team has an excellent tradition of athletic achievement. They have been crowned State champions five times, including twice in the last 3 years alone.

On behalf of the 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise head coach Don Hartley, and assistant coach David Gregg on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Mules take to the field to defend their title in 2008.

The team members are: Colton Gregg, Jordan Lang, Bryan March, Anthony Roden, Devin Reese, Eric Stevens, Reis Cunningham, Steve Deferio, Ryan Fisher, Drew Knox, Alex Keeling, Ryan Pudlowski, Anthony Losurdo, Keyan Scutt, Cody Sherman, Ryon Adam, Nathaniel Gregg, Eli Vitale, Matt Treby, Dan Burdett, Ryan Gould and Juan (Chino) Torres.